

London Dec. 10 51

Dear Maria,

To pass two sheets ended I think with my revised copy is over
 Saturday some 20th - undress me more of early a took an omnibus to town & attended
 service in Whitehall Chapel - This was formerly the Banqueting room, & is
 all that is left of the old Whitehall palace - When the rest was pulled down
 this was turned into a chapel, but the ceiling still is covered with fine
 paintings by Rubens of some sort of glorification of James I - From one window
 there was raised the platform whence King Charles stepped out to his ex-
 ecution, which was in a sort of court behind, a quiet sequestered place with
 a fine statue of the King in the Centre; we then after inspecting King
 walked down to take a view of Westminster Abbey, on the outside; then
 coming up Parliament St again, stopped in the Strand to get some lunch,
 & then took a box to St Pauls, for Mr. Day was very anxious to attend afternoon
 service in the nave there, a new experiment of the last few Sundays -
 We found ourselves much too early & so walked about, calling a visit
 to Christ Church school, the Blue coat boys, where I saw almost ^{names of note} ~~the~~ best
 educated - There are many buildings with cloisters surrounding court yards,
 nice places for the boys in dry weather & the cloisters in wet - And some of the
 boys were about, dressed in their queer costume - a pair of blue small-clothes
 & long yellow stockings & leather shoes, a frock coat buttoned tight in the throat
 with pewter buttons, a standing collar, & the skirt scant & descending to the ankles,
 a narrow red leather strap round the waist & a pair of white ^{when they were boys} muslin bands
 complete the costume; I believe there is a tradition that a ~~boy~~ ^{boy} about as large as
 a pommer, completes the ~~costume~~, but I never saw a blue coat boy with one on,
 nor did I ever meet anyone that had. I have met them all over London from
 December to July in all seasons & weathers, they are invariably bare-headed & their
 hair is cut quite short - One would judge from their looks that they are quite
 a superior set of boys - Then we went to visit at Southfield the great cattle
 market, sales famous as where the martyrs were burnt in Queen Mary's
 buildings, & one part covered with strong rails like wooden fences where the
 cattle were tied, the other part was divided into more pen-like arrangements for
 sheep & hogs, I suppose - It all looked neat & freshly swept, but one imagined
 ever get the poor things there through the visible crowded streets of London as
 more than I can imagine - We got back to St Pauls as the Lord had given
 & the crowd which had been gathered in the steps covered in - though we
 allowed them the nave was quite filled to the sides, & we could only get seats on
 the very outside, & so we could scarce follow the service & dear mother, the sermon
 we left soon after that began, & got down to St. Botolph's to dine with them as they
 had kindly asked us, shortly before 5 - he had a very pleasant dinner - Mr. B. ^{is}
 is a delightful person, & always so kind & cordial; & they are all very kind & agreeable

They have a dear little child with them now, the eldest daughter, and saw me all
the way for the rest of the summer & left the child here - and saw for the interested
children with it. But it was not the same, & would suddenly we were to it
for the new train at 1/4 of Sunday. There was some late, so we had to take
the 10 to Richmond, & then must take the said tram with the long walk home -
so give you some idea of the immense number of trains, & the fact
of the most distance between London & Richmond, & trains going into
London, & heard another as we left the station & another as we were coming
London is a great place for excursions. People who cannot get out of London
and other day, & the whole of the morning service, & Richmond & Hampton
Coast & such places to have the afternoon walk in the pleasure grounds &
parks - Monday morning we went up to town again to get some things packed
for Norwich, & to make a short visit to the British Museum, which is an
immense collection of objects of natural history, sculpture, books, antiquities,
etc. etc. - Dr. Day had some botanical work in the herbarium there, but he
did not do anything that day, for we spent the time talking with Mr. Brown
who was in quite a shabby mood - He is a singular looking old man, with
a very heavy lower lip & jaw & generally carries his head down, but it is curious
to see how he bristles up & what a satirical look comes in
the corner of his eyes when he tells some story, for he has a good deal of satire,
& he told some stories of Mr. Panton the designer of the Crystal Palace, whose head
seems quite turned by the applause he has received, & who seems to think he has
trampled suddenly into all knowledge botanical, botanical etc. and whose remarks
were a great deal of amusement to such men as Mr. Brown who is a
man of letters & with a sort of genius. We called also on Mrs. Lawrence,
meaning if we saw her to see if it were possible to get admission to the great hall
at Whitehall, for I thought I should like to see the show & it would be a good
chance to see the Queen. But they were out, so that idea was abandoned. Mrs.
Nathan Appleton was also out on whom we called. - Tuesday I was here pre-
paring for Norwich - He had written to Lodgings there & were invited a
man Alexander would receive us as guests; & one great attraction to me was
that Emily Deibest would be there - & I thought it a fine chance to see him.
I took a good deal of pains in packing my things in nice order, & told Dr. Day he
would send me a carriage so much baggage as I needed for I meant to work nice,
so we took the two trunks with other baggage & went to take
Monday with Mr. Day, but I was too busy & tired. Wednesday morning we were off in
a good time for London & then we were in the train for Norwich.
There were two foreigners in the carriage for L. also - One was a man with English
who said he was now living in Paris & was much in his nationality, but the
other was a French artist. The train was in a nice state & we were much de-
lighted in getting our luggage - but as I had gone up to Mr. Alexander's, Bank House,
& were deposited in a quiet looking mansion close on the street - The maid

who came to the door said we were right, & we waited in the luggage room
waiting in, a quiet looking man (they are Quakers) appeared, & we were welcomed
us, & showed us up stairs into a large pleasant parlour furnished with comfortable
furnished, where we found another gentleman who was introduced as
"Thomas Brown" - Recently he had showed me to his room, & while we
was examining the books, & a woman who was Quaker came in & made
me welcome showed me what drawers were at my service, & opened
a door where was a "bedroom" for the husband, & left me to prepare
for dinner - On returning to the drawing room we found the two daughters
of Thomas Brown, & Mrs. Miss Catchpools from Leicester - then two daughters
about 14 & 15 of Mrs. Hill under a few sons - They are very strict Quakers in
dress & manner - the eldest son a small slender, thin father with
his straight coat & gave way - but they were all very quiet & still,
but very kind & attentive - it takes me a little time however to get
accustomed to the plain rather cold manner for their kind and the
mimicry & cordiality of dear Mrs. Toddler - But they
were sensible & agreeable, & Mrs. Alexander treated us as a woman
of great information & strong mind, & she asked a good laugh, her
laugh was particularly pleasant, & her round & sweet face dimpled
sweetly under her plain Quaker cap (just like our Quaker Calceolopha)
There was no talk or do here - I was, have you, & Dr. Day, had seen
& so with all - The Miss Catchpools were very agreeable well informed
girls, & they & the Browns entered the Quaker dress in, with a
great simplicity, but were more contented in the fashion of the day
in the length of their waists, the fashion of their sleeves, & the shape of their
bonnets (having wrinkles & brown silk - The last down to a
beautiful & excellent dinner & whatever the simplicity of dress, the Quakers
were certainly kept good tables - There were daughters younger, & a little
boy came in with the dessert, & after tea was handed in the drawing
room, in which time we were joined by another Quaker, Robert Rice,
a striking looking large old man who came from Wales, we adjourned
to the reading room, & the introduction was made of the introduction in
the Iron Church, which had been arranged in a small table with a
& went with a good number & passed with interest & interest, with a
very good list - But I must say however that for me can enter some of the
scientific meetings without a ticket for which 1s & 5s is said - the Quakers
tickets are not transferable, the ladies are - transferable - all saw the
same & then are considered as members, which gives them the privilege
of attending all the public meetings - after some other arrangements
had decided the meeting, Sir David Brewster the last year's president, came in

... on the ... for not having granted a report
prepared by the Association the year before - But I thought the close view
frequent & beautiful, where he spoke of the aims of a scientific man, or rather
what they should be - When he sat down Mr. Bury, the Astronomer Royal &
President of the Association for this time, gave an address, & briefly reviewed
the most important events in science for the last year, & thanked the Govern-
ment highly for its attention to the requests & recommendations of the Associa-
tion - I thought it a pity the two could not have compared notes a little
beforehand - When Mr. Bury was through, the Bishop & beyond one of the Vice-
presidents, got up to propose a vote of thanks to him. This said Bishop is a
son of Wiltshire, & spoke easily & readily, but such praise or eulogium
& fulsome, as he lavished on Mr. Bury. He was followed by Prof. Sedgwick
who is a wit & therefore went one laugh at all he says; he seconded the
motion in another speech, in which I am sure he endeavoured to prove
that Prof. Bury could only be second to the Archangel Michael from the
accounts he gave of his intellect & character, for being an English Counties
man & member of the Cambridge University seemed to see him an excuse
for going back into all his private history - Even a speech would have been
extraneous at a man's back, but in his face! Dr. Lardner & I joined our voices
after - And all this time not a syllable was said to the religious journal
sent, & his successor after - no labour had commenced, & it was
really painful to me, to see it quite reversing the propriety of things - I am
sure we manage those things in much better taste in America, however wanting
in which a refinement we may be - Well after the two gentlemen had complimented
each other & Mr. Bury it was put to the vote, & the thanks carried -
but my feelings were somewhat retrenched by seeing the former's language
quite so much extended, at this inopportune time as we were; & struck
with the want of propriety of letting the old President & such a man in his
ward's presence about the tables of the Association, & vice without a word,
& such fulsome to see returned on his successor with his duties still
before him - Robert Rice the old Quaker, who knows Mr. Bury, said he went
to him when the meeting was through, & told him he hoped his harmonist
was equal to his other gifts to hear such speeches - He re-embarked at 10
breakfast the next morning - When all the family were assembled
Mr. Alexander read a chapter, then followed the silent prayer, each person re-
maining quiet in their seat with bent head - the lesson at dinner is in the
same way silent - I think there is something very impressive in it - Had
I could add how invariable is the custom in England at dinner a blessing,
at dinner no matter how much or small the company, & I don't think
when the list is removed &

After breakfast each would themselves as they pleased - and Dr. Lardner & I

note letters most men of the water at 11 to 12 - said with you. Heyrude
 see Prince Albert how when we should arrive & then I with her - there
 was quite a crowd in the street awaiting the Prince's coming, & passing & passing
 of soldiers a one or two, by carriages - it length the cheers announced him & he
 came driving swiftly by in one of the royal carriages with this pretty footman
 & coachman which had been sent some the day before. He came on suddenly
 & looked as like some first gentleman in his coat & hat that the whole
 of us who were at another window did not know that it was he until
 he was passed - they expected some state dress - Dr. was leaving there
 might he come came back to join Mrs. Alexander & me - Mrs. A. had unfortunately
 lost her ticket or Dr. was worried in up to the Reception room - She could get another.
 While the matter was discussed & looked about the room I saw the likenesses of
 various naturalists which have been for the geodetic museum - among them was
 the "emerald" likeness of Dr. Wallace! In this reception room were some seats with
 the addresses of all the people who had come & got free as well. It length there
 I found what Mrs. A. gave the ticket & we went our way in the Ethnological & Geo-
 graphical section - A paper had been read before we came on the deterioration
 of races going westward & they were discussing it particularly the deterioration of
 us the other side of the Atlantic and a sort of "little" clergyman of the
 Church of England seemed to accept so unqualifiedly & as if there were no
 question, that we were a deteriorated race, that there seemed no use in
 arguing with him - as one poor American seemed to attempt I cannot say
 that personal observation convinces me of the fact - After being there about
 1/4 of an hour there was something of a stir & a sort of understanding the prince
 was coming. Everyone in the room rose & he came in & took his seat on the plate
 form - with the president of the section &c - He is a very gentlemanly & kind man
 not quite so handsome as I had judged from the picture but still handsome,
 with a woman cut face - something German in his manner. But quiet, calm
 & gentlemanly - His face is not something like Gagey, but not so handsome, he
 has not so very fine eye. His eye is not dark - the first paper read before him
 was by Mr. Chickensall in which we recognized our speaker's name - was
 companion & it was on his investigations & discoveries in Peia Peina - then
 followed a paper on the "Hunt" of New Guinea on the great rail road of the
 Pacific - Really the plan is more feasible than I had supposed & I
 could scarcely listen to it with a great deal of interest. Thomas & Mrs.
 Winter was rather present & took up his branch of our wide discussion
 but it seems he has before brought it before the Geographical Society at
 London & they have received it favorably - And Sir Poterick introduced
 the president of the section spoke strongly in approval & so did Capt. Acton -
 and I think the English Government will perhaps rather take it up if our
 Government so delay action as to make the plan impossible through

the United States. They cut Mr. Whitney's coat & a little discussion
before the Prince went which he soon did with - just all rising as
before until we saw him. When Mr. Whitney resumed his paper, but
he is of the sort & then at the end did not know where to stop but
must say a few words more - & introduce it in a business sort of view
a matter foreign to the nation people thinned out amazingly, & we
thought he never would have ended - ^{Dr. Gray} ~~Mr. Whitney~~ & left as the
next paper began leaving Mrs. C. alone, & after getting some lunch we went
into the Mathematical section which was just closing & where we met
the friends who greeted us most cordially (I must say one thing of
Americans they certainly seem heartier, had I met each other a
good month or so countrymen without previous acquaintance) - then
I had words that showed evidence of the time as an autom-
-one ^{Dr. Gray} ~~Mr. Whitney~~ & it seems to be very much
admired & prized, & also the significance of the room they sought
with them. And they are so simple & sensible one feels they do
the country credit. From thence we went round to the Museum
which however we found closed until after the reception of Prince
Albert the next day so we went back to the house much crowded
with the green arches & mottoes & wreaths & banners with which the
streets were decorated in honor of the Prince & (After dinner Dr.
Gray & I took letters & in the P.M. was the service. It was a question
own a dress but as there were so many Quakers in it I thought they
would give a tone to the class & full dress did not seem accordant
with the hall which was the lecture room of the evening before, so I
decided in my bonnet & felt rather abashed to wear such a gay thing
before Mrs. C's eyes. We had a pleasant P.M. though I decided it would
be not reasonable for the great ones to have their names signed upon
them for how else could one find who they were & the dead so few ac-
quaintances as we had - Towards the end of the Ev. we saw Mr. Foster
whom I saw last year at Mr. Ward's & was introduced to his wife & to Miss
Mendlow's two sisters & father. And Dr. Gray had one or two introductions. We
staid till about 11 & left with the party belonging to our house -

Many thanks to Sue & Charles for letters this week. You have doubtless
heard ere this Charles Brace is released & in Berlin. I heard nothing
about until we learnt it from a Yankee paper this week! - I must
end abruptly for we are going to a Rejoinder from 3 to 11 P.M. at Mrs. Bates' -
Aunt Anna & Mary came last week & seem very bright & we are very merry -
Good bye & best love to all from your ever loving & aff. Jamie